June 18, 2014

UN Women: Annual session of the Executive Board: Pledging Event

Remarks by Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

Mr. President,

As it happens, I deliver my first intervention in New York since the assumption of my current duties at a forum, which aims at advancing the UN goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. There couldn’t be a better occasion to state my Government’s renewed commitment and support to the overall objectives of the UN-Women.

I thank Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women, for her yesterday’s presentation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. I also congratulate the UN-Women team under her sound leadership on diligently carrying out their functions. Armenia welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

At our national level, the Government of Armenia has developed a new Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan in line with the objectives of the UN-Women Midterm Strategic Plan. It aims at promoting the role of women in decision-making in socio-economic, educational, health, cultural and public information sectors, as well as in the prevention of the gender-based violence and human trafficking. Armenia has been amongst the first of the UN membership to submit its National Review on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action back in 1995 and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly in 2000.

Considerable progress has been registered in addressing gender issues at national and international levels. However, much still remains to be done in areas such as total elimination of violence against women, early and
forced marriages and gender selective abortions, as much as promoting equal participation in decision-making, equal access to employment and socio-economic resources and sexual and reproductive health.

As the United Nations is close to embarking on the next generation of development goals, and as it will soon mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, it is ever more important to outline the need to see gender equality and empowerment of women both as a stand-alone goal and a crosscutting target in the broader UN agenda.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging to note that the UN-Women has strengthened its diverse partnerships and funding base in spite of the challenges and obstacles. Armenia welcomes the broad donor base of the UN Gender Entity. It has proven to be successful in attracting funds not only from traditional donors and Member States, but also from corporations and foundations.

Recognising its successful performance, continuous outreach and manifest impact on advancing gender equality and empowerment of women across the world, we are confident that the UN-Women is capable of evolving into an even better and stronger agency within the UN development system. With these considerations in mind, I am pleased to announce my Government’s multi-year voluntary contribution to the entity’s core budget.

We look forward to furthering the productive cooperation with the UN-Women and contributing to its efforts in shaping the gender-related agenda beyond 2015.

Thank you.